

CLAIMS

1. A cover for a lace-up football boot, the cover comprising a continuous elastically expandable sleeve for stretching around the boot so that the boot extends through the sleeve with the tow of the boot protruding from the end of the sleeve, and that the underside of the sleeve engages the portion of the sole of the boot in the region between the heel and toe so the sleeve grips the boot upper and said portion of the sole so as to hold the sleeve in position on the boot, the sleeve also covering the boot laces to prevent the latter untying.
2. A cover according to claim 1, in which the cover is so configured that, in is held on a boot solely by the engagement of the elastomeric sleeve.
3. A cover according to claim 2, in which the cover is constituted by said sleeve.
4. A cover according to claim 3, in which the sleeve is of a one piece construction.
5. A cover according to any of the preceding claims, in which the sleeve is of a varying axial dimension around its circumference with the top of the sleeve being longer than the sleeve bottom.
6. A cover according to any of the preceding claims, in which the exterior of the top of the sleeve includes a zone the surface of which is rough, wherein, when a ball is being kicked using the shoe with the cover fitted, the rough surface engages the ball to assist in control of the latter.

7. A cover according to claim 6, in which the roughness of the surface is the result of indented or embossed formations on the surface.
8. A cover according to claim 7, in which the roughness of the surface is achieved by means of a multitude of embossed ribs arranged in a herringbone pattern, or of a multitude of indentations arranged in the same pattern.
9. A cover according to any of claims 6 to 8, in which the zone is substantially in the centre of the top of the sleeve so that, in use it overlies the laces of a boot on which the sleeve is fitted.
10. A cover according to any of claims 6 to 9, in which the zone is one of three such zones, the other two zones flanking the first said zone.
11. A cover according to any of the preceding claims, in which the sleeve includes fastening means for releaseably holding the tongue of the shoe.
12. A cover according to claim 11, in which the fastening means comprises a patch of filamentary hooks or eyes for engaging a complimentary material on the tongue to provide a touch and close fastening between the cover and the tongue.
13. A cover according to claim 11, in which the patch is of plurality of filamentary headed protuberances.
14. A cover according to any of the preceding claims in which the sleeve is formed from water impermeable material so as to prevent the ingress of water into the boot around the edges of the tongue.
15. A cover according to claim 14, in which the sleeve is constituted by moulded latex.
16. A cover according to any of claims 1 to 14, in which the sleeve is transparent.

17. A cover according to claim 16, in which the sleeve is of silicone.
18. A sports shoe fitted with a cover according to any of the preceding claims.